

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Currently amended) \underline{An} laboratory assay of a body fluid or tissue sample, which comprises detecting cishydroxyproline and derivatives thereof by quantitative analysis.
- 2. (Currently amended) The laboratory assay of claim 1, wherein cis-4-hydroxyproline is detected.
- 3. (Currently amended) The laboratory assay of claim 1, wherein cis-hydroxyproline and its derivatives is detected by HPLC, column chromatography, gas chromatography, mass spectroscopy, ion exchange chromatography, immunoassay, radio immunoassay, enzyme immunoassay, or fluorescence immunoassay.
- 4. (Previously presented) A process for determining cis-hydroxyproline and its derivatives in a body fluid or tissue sample according to the assay of claim 1 which comprises eliminating disturbing substances in the body fluid or tissue sample to be analyzed and quantitatively

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determining cis-hydroxyproline and its derivative content in the sample.

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- 5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 4, which comprises using HPLC, gas chromatography, column chromatography, mass spectroscopy, ion exchange chromatography, RIA, ELISA or fluorescence immunoassay to quantitatively determine the cis-hydroxyproline and its derivative content in the sample.
- 6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 4, wherein the cis-hydroxyproline and its derivative content is determined by comparing with an external standard, an internal standard, or both.
- 7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 4, wherein the cis-4-hydroxyproline content in the body fluid and tissue sample is determined by HPLC, comprising the following steps:
- a) adding an internal standard to the sample to obtain a mixture;
 - b) hydrolyzing the mixture to obtain a product;
- c) adding at least one alkali hydroxide and at least one alkali carbonate to the product of step b);
- d) adding a reagent that eliminates the disturbing substance and adding a derivatization reagent to the product of step c); and
- e) determining the cis-4-hydroxyproline and its derivative content in the product of step d) by quantitative analysis.

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8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein before step b) an acid is added.

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- 9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 8, wherein hydrolysis takes place in the presence of hydrochloric acid at a temperature ranging from 80 degrees C to 120 degrees C.
- 10. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein the alkali metal compounds added in step c) are hydroxides or carbonates of sodium or potassium.
- 11. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein the pH value in step c) is adjusted to a pH ranging from 8.5 to 9 with the addition of HCl.
- 12. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein in step d) ortho-phthaldialdehyde (OPA) and as the derivatization reagent an azo dye are added.
- 13. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein prior to the quantitative analysis of cis-4-hydroxyproline and its derivatives in step e) the temperature is lowered.
- 14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 4, wherein the body fluid sample is a urine sample or a blood sample.
- 15. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein cis-3-hydroxyproline is used as the internal standard (IS).

16-19. (Cancelled)